United Nations A/57/61

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 March 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Item 122 of the preliminary list*
Joint Inspection Unit

Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the work programme of the Unit for 2002 (see annex).

* A/57/50 and Corr.1.

02-30627 (E) 080402

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Annex

Programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2002

I. Introduction

1. The following work programme has been drawn up in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976. It takes into account the guidelines laid out in successive Assembly resolutions on the functioning of the Unit, in particular resolutions 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999 and 56/245 of 24 December 2001. As hitherto, the programme of work is subject to change in the course of the year: new reports may be added; planned reports may be modified, postponed or cancelled when circumstances so warrant; and titles may be changed to reflect the new thrust of reports.

2. In the past, a preliminary listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond was issued concurrently with the work programme for the current year. The General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 56/245, invited the Joint Inspection Unit to improve the presentation of the preliminary listing "by providing information on the source, including legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year". With a view to complying with this, the Unit will, in future, issue the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond as a separate document within the time frame laid out in the resolution. The Unit will continue to seek suggestions from the executive heads of participating organizations for topics to be included therein, in addition to those proposals having a legislative mandate as well as those originating from internal sources.

3. The current-year work programme as listed in section II below contains five new reports and one new note. The Joint Inspection Unit wishes to draw attention to the fact that, in addition to these new reports and the new note, the Unit has been preparing at least 16 reports and notes, which have been carried over from previous years' work plans, and it expects to issue no less than 14 reports and notes by the end of 2002.

II. Work programme for 2002

Reports

A. Review of management and administration in the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

4. This review will form part of an ongoing series of reports prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit on the management and administration of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system: International Labour Organization (ILO) (1999), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2000), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (2001) and World Health Organization (WHO) (2001). A similar review of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is also part of the current work programme (see subsect. D below). The decision to include UNIDO in this series of reports originated from a suggestion made by its secretariat that the Unit undertake a review of the delegation of authority in UNIDO. The Unit believes that there is merit in enlarging the scope of the proposed report on the delegation of authority in UNIDO to a broader review of its management and administration, particularly in view of the major downsizing of the Organization in the second half of the 1990s. Against the background of these recent organizational changes, the report of the Unit will aim at identifying areas for further improvement in management and administration in UNIDO, as well as highlighting good practices. The report will focus on the following main areas: managerial issues including the delegation of authority, field representation, information technology and common services; planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; human resources management; and internal and external oversight. It is intended that the report shall be presented to the UNIDO Industrial Development Board at its session envisaged for the third quarter of 2003.

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B. Reaching the international goal of primary education for all by 2015: study of United Nations system coherence in some selected countries

5. Education has been recognized as a key to sustainable development and a prerequisite to bridging knowledge divides in a globalizing world. The international community has therefore reiterated recently, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[a] and the Dakar Framework for Action,[b] its determination and commitment with respect to reaching education goals, some of which were already set in earlier major conferences. It is time to see whether these commitments are being translated into action as the international community now faces the implementation phase.

6. "To ensure that, by the year 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education" has been retained as a goal in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Dakar goals are more ambitious as they address, inter alia, issues of quality, adult literacy, comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, gender equality in education by 2015, acquisition of life skills by adolescents and youth, and relevance of education.

7. Adopting a results-based approach, the report will examine whether at this time all the conditions are in place to allow the international community to meet these goals by the specified target dates. The report will, on the basis of some selected countries, evaluate the strategies employed by the members of the international community, in particular the various members of the United Nations system, with regard to their coherence and whether they are conducive to assisting Member States in reaching the goals in time. It is intended that the report shall be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

C. Follow-up on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for science and technology in Asia and the Pacific (JIU/REP/95/7)

8. Article 12 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit states:

> "Executive heads of organizations shall ensure that recommendations of the Unit approved by their respective competent organs are implemented as expeditiously as possible. Such implementation may be subject to verification by the competent organs of the organizations, which may also request the Unit to issue follow-up reports. The Unit may also prepare such reports on its own initiative."

9. The report is being prepared on the initiative of the Joint Inspection Unit as part of its new follow-up system, which has been endorsed by the General Assembly. This follow-up system seeks to track and report on action taken on the Unit's recommendations by the competent legislative organs and the secretariats of the participating organizations. The report will assess the degree to which the organizations have so far implemented the recommendations contained in the Unit's initial report (JIU/REP/95/7, contained in A/50/721), with special emphasis on actions promoting regional and interregional cooperation in science and technology. The process of verifying implementation will also take into account major developments within the United Nations system in the field of science and technology that are relevant to the recommendations of the report in question. It is intended that the report shall be presented, in the first instance, to the General Assembly during its fifty-seventh session.

D. Review of management and administration in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

10. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, this report is one in a series of reviews devoted to the administration and management of specialized agencies of the United Nations system. It follows similar reports on ILO, UNESCO, ITU and WHO and is being undertaken concurrently with a review of UNIDO. This report will

focus on: management structures and services; use of information technology and management information systems; planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; human resources management; decentralization and field activities; and internal and external oversight. The review will consider recent and ongoing management reforms in FAO, in the light of system-wide recommendations contained in reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, and in the light of best practices identified in the course of the preparation of previous reviews. It is intended that the report shall be presented jointly to the upcoming sessions of the FAO Programme and Finance Committees.

E. A comparative study of standards of accommodation, travel time and rest stopovers with a view to harmonizing policies throughout the United Nations system

11. The report will be the ninth in a series of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on travel in the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system. The objective of the report, which has been included in the programme of work of the Unit based upon a proposal from UNESCO, is to conduct a comparative analysis of different components of travel — class of travel, stopovers, travel time, hotel accommodation, terminal expenses etc. — of officials travelling at the expense of the organizations of the United Nations system. It will examine and evaluate policies and practices of different organizations, highlighting good practices and identifying possible improvements, with a view to harmonizing them throughout the system. It is intended that the report shall be presented to the governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations in the second half of 2003.

Note

F. United Nations system regional presence and coordination: the case of Arab countries

12. In the Arab region, as is the case in other regions, a number of United Nations system organizations have regional or subregional offices that serve the countries they cover through a range of activities, within their respective mandates, at the national, subregional and regional levels. Among these organizations are: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), FAO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), ILO, ITU, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNESCO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNIDO and WHO. In 1997, the Joint Inspection Unit carried out a report entitled "Strengthening field representation of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/97/1, contained in A/52/457), the focus of which was on coordination and cooperation at the country level mainly through the resident coordinator system. This note will attempt to assess existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system organizations, taking the Arab region as a case study, and examine ways of enhancing them at the regional level for the benefit of, and in cooperation with, the countries and organizations of the region.

Notes

[a] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[b] See *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2000).